

THE CONCEPTION AND TESTING OF THE RIVER CONTINUUM CONCEPT

I - Conception

Three stage setting meetings

Boston symposium - 1969

Stroud/Rockefeller

OSU, 1972

Planted germ of idea to work together and do a better job of explaining how stream ecosystems worked

MSU-Gull Lake - December, 1973

NSF receptive to group proposal

Mulled ideas that we could do at each of our sites; didn't accomplish much

Decided to summarize state-of-the-science and meet with more people at Stroud (GWM and RLV-inverts; CEC-pp; KWC-detritus; JRS-geomorph)

Stroud - May, 1974

Larger group, presented summary papers, still looking for commonality.

Robin's observations on physical dissipation of energy along a continuum provided us with an analog to see if biological communities exhibited some kind of order.

MSU-Gull Lake - July, 1974

Actual writing of proposal; developed ideas for biological components

Decided on 4 sites (Hanford streams not continuous and duplicated Idaho)

Determined responsibilities of PIs, post-doc coordinator

Pocatello - July, 1975

We got it, now what do we do? Logistics

Hire post-doc coordinator, Bob Petersen (Stroud and Pocatello)

Adopted sampling protocol, timing, etc.

Workshops to develop common sampling protocols

PR - August 1975

Various chambers and in-stream methods

Detritus - December 1975

Nets, boxes, bombs, etc.

Leaky boots and carbon filters

Other meetings at OSU (AIBS, stream sites), Pocatello, Stroud, but above were major milestones.

II - Testing

1975-1977 - Site work, stream orders 1-5

The unsung heroes

PA, MI, ID, OR

Adjustments - 1978

Tributary inputs; Middle Fork float

1977-80 - Salmon River, stream order 6-8

Finding a suitable large river - White, Buffalo, Yellowstone, etc.

The concentrated effort

III - Summary and legacy

33 published papers in RCC Series

Testing, adjusting, criticising around the world

Still remains one of most useful and widely cited paradigms

New research (FPOM dynamics) to fill in some of the holes in the original RCC

Worldwide testing in Elsevier book

21 chapters will examine usefulness and conformity of RCC and other concepts in geographical areas of the world